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eARMSTRONG

A newsletter for Armstrong Atlantic State University faculty & staff

DECEMBER 2007

Nicholas Mamalakis to be honored at graduation

The late Nicholas (Nick) John Mamalakis will receive a posthumous Honorary Doctor of Letters from Armstrong Atlantic at graduation ceremonies to be held December 8 at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the Alumni Arena.

Mamalakis was a respected leader in the Savannah business community. He joined Mercer General Insurance & Realty Company as a clerk in 1932 prior to his graduation from Savannah High School. Fifty years later he retired as the company's president and chairman of the board.



The son of immigrants from Greece, he was proud of his heritage and a member of St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church where he held laity positions locally, and also with the national church. He earned many awards in his lifetime including the Ellis Island Medal of Honor for outstanding national service.

In World War II he served in the Naval Intelligence Service and was awarded five war medals.

During a lifetime of distinguished civic service he was involved with numerous community groups including as a trustee of the Armstrong foundation board from 1993 to 1996.

Mamalakis considered AASU's mission fundamental to Savannah's prosperity. He often referred to AASU as "Savannah's brain trust, charged with equipping the area's future workforce with the knowledge to foster responsible economic growth."

His long history with Armstrong began in the 1960s, as a founding member of the Big "A" Club in athletics. He extended his support to the alumni association and the university foundation. In 1985, the AASU Alumni Association named Mamalakis Armstrong Citizen of the Year for his service to the university and the community. He and his wife, Anna, established the Nick and Anna Mamalakis Scholarship. Two years later Mamalakis was inducted into the AASU Athletic Hall of Fame.

In 2003, longtime friend and protégé J. Cliff McCurry and his wife, Kathy, made a generous contribution to the Emerging Leader Program at Armstrong Atlantic in honor of Mamalakis. The fifteen-week leadership development program for first year students and students new to AASU, was renamed The Nick Mamalakis Emerging Leader Program.

Grant Supports Cancer Treatment Research at AASU

A \$30,000 grant from the Radiological Society of North America Research and Education Foundation will allow AASU to continue developing a comprehensive web-based software system for radiation therapy treatment and training. Felix Hamza-Lup and undergraduate student assistant Ivan Sopin, Department of Computer Science, and Omar Zeidan, a radiation therapy physicist at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Orlando, are conducting the research. Memorial Health University Medical Center is a collaborator in the research.



Hamza-Lup

The three-dimensional radiation therapy treatment (3DRTT) is a real-time, web-based graphical simulator for radiation therapy linear accelerators. While radiation therapy is highly effective in the treatment of cancer, its ultimate benefit depends on the skills of the medical personnel who deliver the treatment. One of the key features of the 3DRTT system is automatic collision detection. The risks of having the machine collide with a patient or other equipment during treatment has vexed doctors and technicians. The web-based interface prevents collisions by simulating the motion of the components during the treatment planning phase and helps healthcare personnel to develop optimal collision-free treatment plans that are patient-specific. The 3DRTT improves the accuracy and efficiency of radiation treatment planning and delivery by providing accurate, three-dimensional visualization of hardware components and their relative motion. It can also be used as a learning tool in existing radiation therapy courses by offering three-dimensional content, simulation of concepts, and treatment scenarios for therapy staff, physicians, and students.

Doctors from Johns Hopkins University and several treatment cancer treatment facilities are currently using the 3DRTT. The M.D. Anderson Cancer Center will adopt the software in the treatment cycle in the near future. AASU students in the Department of Radiologic Sciences are incorporating the simulator into their training.

National Science Foundation Grant Supports Interdisciplinary Teaching and Research

The National Science Foundation has awarded AASU a grant for \$149,000 to support interdisciplinary interactions between the departments of chemistry and physics, history, and art, music & theatre. The grant will allow AASU to purchase an X-ray fluorescence spectrometer (XRF) and provide scholarly support to design laboratory experiments and research projects. The areas of interest include nanotechnology, elemental analysis of medieval coins, authenticity of artwork, and the composition of archeological artifacts and geological samples.

The principal investigator of this interdisciplinary team is Delana A. Nivens, chemistry and physics. The co-principal investigators are Will E. Lynch and Clifford Padgett, chemistry and physics; James Todesca, history; and Deborah Jamieson, art, music & theatre. Specific to the project will be collaborations with museums in the United States and abroad that will allow the use of non-destructive x-ray chemical analysis of medieval coins to examine historical episodes of various governments, particularly the devaluation of currencies during times of economic strife. In addition, the grant provides funds for undergraduate and graduate students to get hands-on exposure to laboratory experiments using the XRF in a variety of course settings. A broader impact of the grant is outreach to K-12 educators in the region through summer workshops where science, art, and history teachers learn how science and the humanities can overlap to solve interesting problems.

Partners in Teaching at Saint Peter's School, Belize

Several Armstrong Atlantic educators arrived in Orange Walk, Belize in October for a four-day visit with the teachers, staff, and students of Saint Peter's Anglican School. Working under the auspices of the Partners in Teaching Program affiliated with Christ Church of Savannah and supported by grants from the Stewart Huston Charitable Trust, the educators make annual visits to Belize to share their professional expertise



Saint Peter's Anglican School in Belize

with educators in that country. This year's visit was designed to lay the groundwork for establishing a professional development school to provide in-service training for the teachers of Belize. Such a school would be ideal for providing pre-service educators in the College of Education's teacher preparation programs with a rich, international training experience.

The principal of Saint Peter's School, Rossana Briceno, warmly welcomed the visitors, who brought professional expertise in the fields of general and special education. Susan White and Joyce Bergin, special & adult education; Bettye Anne Battiste, early childhood education; and Nancy Hepting, speech and language consultant and former faculty member at AASU, brought many books for the school's library along with other instructional materials for use by the teachers and students.

During their stay, the educators spent time visiting each classroom and observing teachers as they conducted their daily lessons. Battiste and Hepting met with the teacher and students in the school's new preschool program. Both educators were excited about the presence of the program and the brightly painted, attractive area set up especially for the three- and four-year old children. They worked closely with the preschool's teacher to develop instructional methods that promote language and learning among young children. At the same time they interacted with the children, they also provided lessons and shared ideas with the teacher concerning ways to integrate a number of learning skills into carefully planned, interactive lessons.

White and Bergin spent time observing in the classrooms of the older children, including remedial classes. They were very impressed by the explicit teaching methods being employed by the teachers, especially in reading and language arts. Children were responding well to their teachers' instruction and were actively engaged in the learning process.

White and Bergin offered some demonstrations on ways to extend and enrich lessons. Bergin, a specialist in learning disorders, shared ideas on reading instruction in a one-hour workshop for remedial teachers.

The educators, at the invitation of the Ministry of Education and the Anglican Diocese, have provided a variety of workshops for teachers in schools throughout Belize for more than five years. All agreed that the visit was highly productive and exciting.

AASU Education Majors Earn Scholarships

Sixteen students from AASU's College of Education were recently honored for earning Partnership for Reform in Science and Mathematics (PRISM) Satellite Scholarships. The 2007-2008 scholarships ranging between \$1,000 and \$2,000 are awarded through funding by the National Science Foundation to science and mathematics education students who demonstrate academic excellence.



From left: Jane McHaney, dean of the College of Education; students Katherine Adams, Tiffany Weatherford, Helen R. Ward, Jennifer Steuver, Carolyn Wiederhold, Ashley S. Davis; and AASU President Thomas Z. Jones.

"You are on the frontier of an effort to increase the number of students graduating in the areas of mathematics and science education," President Thomas Z. Jones told the honorees during a reception in October.

The PRISM Satellite Scholarships program seeks to improve pre-service teacher education in the areas of mathematics and science. The scholarships are designed to increase the number and diversity of students majoring in science and mathematics education.

AASU Offers Cultural Arts Tour of New York City

AASU invites current students, faculty, staff, and members of the general public to take a cultural arts tour of New York City, the *Big Bite Apple Tour*, May 7-12, 2008. The Department of Art, Music & Theatre and the Field Studies Center of New York are sponsoring the trip.

The cost is \$1,550 for AASU students, faculty, and staff. Non-AASU students can choose from a family room (four-person) accommodation for \$1,650, or double occupancy accommodation for \$1,850. The cost includes airfare, lodging, seminars, Broadway shows, and visits to art museums, as well as a guided tour of one selected New York City landmark, such as Radio City Music Hall, the NBC Studios, or the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. Meals are not included.



Applications are due by December 12. A \$300 deposit is required with the application. For more information, contact Roger Miller at 921.5641.

AASU Mathematics Department Hosts Chatham County Middle School Math Bowl

The AASU Department of Mathematics hosted the Chatham County Middle School Math Bowl in November. Sixty-six students from 10 schools participated in the competition.

Welcome Aboard

Loren Estes, College of Health Professions

Donna Kaplan, Registrar/Admissions/Enrollment Services

Brandon Jones, Recreation & Wellness

On the Move

Laura Sherman, from Enrollment Services to Languages, Literature & Philosophy

Kudos

Chapter 297 of the national Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi inducted 118 new members during an initiation ceremony in November and honored more than a dozen outstanding faculty. In addition to its acceptance of 102 new student members, the chapter welcomed two AASU professional staff into its fold and bestowed membership honors on 14 alumni.

President **Thomas Z. Jones** presented the alumni with their membership certificates, and Chapter President **Camille Stern**, nursing, joined him in presenting membership honors to the professional staff and to junior, senior, post-baccalaureate, and graduate students.

Armstrong Atlantic professional staff welcomed into the organization were **Peter N. Mastopoulos**, continuing education, and **Shannon Reddick Mastopoulos**, CIS, both alumni of the university.

Honored faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences include: **Judy Awong-Taylor** and **Debbie Tucker**, biology; **Suzanne Carpenter** and **Donna Mullenax**, chemistry and physics; **Madeline Boney**, (professor emerita, posthumous), **Chris Hendricks**, **Amanda Pipkin**, **James Todesca**, and **Learotha Williams**, history; **Carol Andrews**, **Beth Howells**, and **Teresa Winterhalter**, languages, literature, and philosophy.

From the College of Education: **Michael Mahan**, **Regina Rahimi**, and **Patrick Thomas**, middle and secondary education; **Patrick Brennan** (posthumous) and **Patricia Coberly**, special and adult education.

From the College of Health Sciences: **Suzanne Edenfield**, dental hygiene; **Judith Alexander** and **Julie Timms**, nursing; and **Myka Bussey-Campbell**, radiologic sciences.

Armstrong Atlantic alumni joining the organization include: **Glenda Elaine Anderson**, **Deborah Jeanne Bergman**, **Helen Kibler Browning**, **Ann Perkins Delatte**, **David Herschel Dickey**, **Jean Dukes Elder**, **Lenora Porzio Everett**, **Marshall Phillips Mallory**, **James David Plaspohl**, **Jonathan Edward Reimer**, **Virginia M. Steinhauer**, **Herb S. Traub**, **Jarrett Elbert Walsh**, and **Lorie Lynn Williams-Smith**.

Learotha Williams, history, was recently made a trustee of the Historic Savannah Foundation (HSF). Since 1955, the HSF has been active in preserving Savannah's unique heritage through advocacy, education, and community involvement.

Cameron Coates, engineering studies program, presented a paper, "Post Healing Structural Response of an Internal Fixation System for a Mid-Shaft Radius Fracture," at the 2007 American Society of Mechanical Engineers International Mechanical Engineering Congress and Exposition in Seattle in November.

Jane Barnard, mathematics, made two 90-minute presentations at the Teachers Teaching with Technology Regional Conference in November in St. Louis: “Visualizing Characteristics of Polynomial Functions and Their Derivatives Using TI-Nspire,” and “Conjunction Junction: What’s Your Function?” Also in November, Barnard made a PRISM presentation, “The Georgia Performance Standards for Middle Grades Mathematics: What Do They Mean for RHMS and Your Student?,” for parents’ math night at Richmond Hill Middle School (RHMS). In October, she conducted a PRISM workshop, “Differentiation in Mathematics Classrooms Utilizing Appropriate Technology,” for middle grades mathematics teachers in Savannah-Chatham County Schools.

Political science students **Laura Stephens**, **Robert Reynolds**, **Neal Dudash**, **Ashley Griffin**, and **Breana McClendon** attended the 11th Annual Southeast Model African Union Conference with their advisor, **José de Arimatéia da Cruz**, political science. The conference, sponsored by the University System of Georgia African Council and hosted by Georgia Perimeter College at College Center, was held in Clarkston in November. The AASU students represented the nation of Angola at the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government, addressing issues in the areas of economic, social, human rights, peace, and security matters. A total of 22 resolutions were discussed and passed with active participation of AASU students during the three-day meeting.

Sean Eastman, mathematics, and co-author Donald Estep, professor of mathematics at Colorado State University, have published “A power method for nonlinear operators” in the October issue of *Applicable Analysis*.

Brent Feske, chemistry and physics, presented “Utilizing an Engineered E. coli Library as an Asymmetric Biocatalyst towards Pharmaceutical Precursors” at the 59th Southeast Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society (SERMACS) in Greenville, SC. Student co-authors were **Richard Hammond** and **Benjamin Poston**. AASU faculty collaborators were **Scott Mateer** and **Todd Hizer**.

Poston presented a poster on his research, “A Novel Biocatalytic Strategy towards Prozac® and Other Serotonin Reuptake inhibitors,” at the same conference.

Will Lynch, chemistry and physics, presented “Photochemistry of Doped and Undoped Zinc Chalcogenide Nanoparticles” with co-author **Delana Nivens**, chemistry and physics, at SERMACS. The talk was part of a symposium sponsored by Taylor and Francis Publishers on Sulfur and Selenium in the Southeast.

Clifford Padgett, chemistry and physics, and **Tad S. Whiteside**, Savannah River National Lab, Aiken, SC, presented a poster, “Computational Studies on the Mechanical Properties of Diamond Nanotori,” at SERMACS. Co-author was **Kris Gutt**, a former AASU chemistry and physics student.

Rachel Bongini and **Soluman Culver**, chemistry majors, and **Kelly Elkins**, former AASU temporary faculty member, have published the results of their research, “Engineering Aluminum Binding Affinity in an Isolated EF-hand from Troponin C: A Computational Site-directed Mutagenesis Study,” in the *Journal of Inorganic Biochemistry*, September issue.

Culver, Bongini, and Elkins also published Physical Chemistry Poster 512, “Site-directed Mutagenesis of Ligands in the Metal Ion-binding Site in an Isolated EF-hand from Troponin C: Testing Computationally Designed Peptides,” at SERMACS.

Erik Davis, chemistry student, presented his research, “Stereochemical Predictions of Aldo-Keto Reductase Products through Molecular Modeling,” giving a poster presentation with Padgett at SERMACS.

Frank Katz, School of Computing, presented a paper, “Integrating a Security Awareness Program into an Information Security Course,” during the 21st Annual Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges: Southeastern Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC in November. The paper will be published in the *Journal of Computing Sciences in Colleges* in December.

Brenda Logan, middle and secondary education, will present “Writing the Expository Essay: It Works” at the National Youth-At-Risk Conference in Savannah in March 2008. Logan will also present a paper, “Middle Teachers Share Suggestions for Improving the Preparation of Novice Teachers,” at the Hawaii International Conference on Education in January 2008. This paper received a Certificate of Merit Award from the Georgia Association of Teacher Educators at its annual conference in October 2007.

Nancy Luke, special and adult education; **Laura Whitener Caputo**, director of field experience, clinical placement, and partnerships; and **Richard Horah**, Lane Library, presented “Leaving our Silos: Collaborative Design of an Introductory Technology Course” at the Georgia Association for Teacher Educators.

Leigh E. Rich, health sciences, presented “Rolling the Bones: Law, Risk, and Body Boundaries” at the American Public Health Association’s (APHA) 135th annual meeting, and at the American Anthropological Association’s 106th annual meeting, both held in Washington, D.C. She also presented a poster of “Demonized Women and Emasculated Men: Gender Role Construction in the Era of Television” at the APHA conference.

Bradley Sturz, psychology, and **Jeffrey Katz**, Auburn University, presented the poster, “Learning of absolute and relative distance and direction by pigeons,” at the 48th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society in Long Beach, CA.

Dorothee Mertz-Weigel, languages, literature & philosophy, presented the paper, “Christine de Pizan: Defying Melancholy,” at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association conference in November in Atlanta.

Rhonda Bevis, respiratory therapy, took part in an Avon Breast Cancer Walk in Charlotte, NC on October 20. Her four-person team raised more than \$10,000. All teams, comprising 1,000 women from the southeastern United States, raised a total of \$2.3 million. Funds support breast cancer research, education, and treating costs for indigent women afflicted with the disease.

Calendar

December 1

Winterfest Honor Band Concert, 7 p.m., Fine Arts Auditorium. For more information, call 927.5325.

December 1-2

AASU Masquers will perform Mark Dunn’s *Belles*, a comedy in two acts and 45 phone calls, 7:30 p.m. (3 p.m. on December 2), Armstrong Center Meeting Suite. For more information, call 927.5381.

December 6-9

AASU Masquers will present Lillian Hellman’s controversial schoolhouse drama, *The Children’s Hour*, 7:30 p.m. (3 p.m. on December 9), Fine Arts Hall, Room 206. For more information, call 927.5325.

December 8

Graduation, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., Alumni Arena

December 9

Pre-Christmas Concert featuring the Gospel Choir, Fashion and Talent Extravaganza, 6 p.m., Fine Arts Auditorium. For more information, call Lottie Scott, 921.2394.

December 24-December 31

The university will be closed for the Christmas holidays.

January 1

New Year's Day holiday

January 4

AASU Men's Basketball vs. UNC Pembroke, 5:30 p.m., Alumni Arena

AASU Women's Basketball vs. UNC Pembroke, 7:30 p.m., Alumni Arena

January 7-8

Advisement and registration (Spring 2008, Sessions 1 & 2)

January 9-11

Late advisement and registration (Sessions 1 & 2)

January 12

AASU Women's Basketball vs. Augusta State University, 5:30 p.m., Alumni Arena

AASU Men's Basketball vs. Augusta State University, 7:30 p.m., Alumni Arena

January 21

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The university will be closed.

AASU In the News

Following are some of the top stories appearing in print and broadcast media in November. For more details on these and other stories, contact Francisco Duque in University Relations at 961.3173, or Francisco.Duque@armstrong.edu.

- 11/2 AASU to host Middle Grades conference.
-*Savannah Morning News*
Also, *Coastal Family*
- 11/3 AASU hosts International Week.
-*Savannah Morning News*
Also, *Savannah Morning News*-11/4-11/7; *Connect*-11/7; *Coastal Family*-11/1; *WJCL*-11/5; *WSAV*-11/5; *WTGS*-11/5; *WTOC*-11/5; and *WTBM* (Columbus,GA)-11/5.
- 11/4 David Wheeler presents faculty lecture.
-*Savannah Morning News*
Also, *Savannah Morning News*-11/5; *Savannah Tribune*-11/7; *Coastal Courier*-11/9
- 11/5 Michael Toma discusses Savannah's economic growth.
-*Business Report & Journal*
- 11/6 AASU women's soccer team has earned an at-large bid to the 2007 NCAA championships.
-*Savannah Morning News*
- 11/9 AASU hosts a ceremony to honor Veteran's Day.
-*Savannah Morning News*
Also *WSAV* 11/19
- 11/14 Sixteen students from the College of Education received PRISM scholarships.
-*Savannah Tribune*

- 11/15 Art, music & theatre presents its fall 2007 Graduation Art Exhibition in the Fine Arts Gallery.
-*Savannah Morning News*
- 11/15 Coach Jeff Burkhamer speaks on the transition the basketball team is undergoing.
-*Savannah Morning News*
- 11/17 AASU professors take advanced research leaves to complete books.
-*Savannah Morning News*
- 11/19 AASU received a \$1,119,975 grant from the Information Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers.
-*Savannah Morning News*
- 11/19 AASU is leading a telecommunications upgrade that will deliver Internet protocol (IP) telephony to five institutions in the University System of Georgia.
-*Savannah Morning News*

University System Electronic News Sources

Take advantage of the range of informational publications published online by the University System of Georgia (USG).

- For news of both the university system office and individual campuses, read the monthly *System Supplement*: www.usg.edu/pubs/sys_supp/.
- *Value Added—USG Serves Georgia* focuses on how the university system and its campuses are serving Georgia and local communities. To read this monthly publication, go to: www.usg.edu/pubs/value/.
- *Linkages* reports news of the university system and provides hot links to related source materials: www.usg.edu/linkages/.

There will be no issue of *eArmstrong* in January 2008.

The submission deadline for the February issue of

***e*ARMSTRONG**
is January 15.

Please send submissions to AASU.news@armstrong.edu.

For more information contact Barry Ostrow
in the Office of University Relations
at 927.5223 or Barry.Ostrow@armstrong.edu.

*Best wishes for Happy Holidays
and a Happy New Year*

